

Message Text

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42

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W
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O P 201615Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7539

INFO USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE 1312

AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

US MISSION NATO 2031

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 ATHENS 1404

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UN, CY

SUBJ: CYPRUS IN UNSC: DISCUSSION WITH BITSIOS

REF: A) USUN 0530; B) ATHENS 1347

1. I SAW FOREIGN MINISTER BITSIOS THIS AFTERNOON TO TRY
AND GET A RUNDOWN ON THE ATHENS VISIT OF UNSYG WALDHEIM,
WHO DEPARTED THIS MORNING FOR NEW YORK. WALDHEIM HAD
BEEN IN ANKARA JUST BEFORE COMING TO ATHENS LATE YESTER-
DAY AFTERNOON.

2. ACCORDING TO BISTIOS, WALDHEIM'S VISIT TO ANKARA WAS
"COMPLETELY NEGATIVE" AS TO RESULTS, CONCERNING BOTH
PROCEDURE AND SUBSTANCE. BITSIOS SAID THAT WALDHEIM
SAW VIRTUALLY "NO GIVE" IN THE TURKISH POSITION. THE
TURKS CLAIMED THAT BITSIOS HAD GONE BACK ON SOME OF THE
UNDERSTANDINGS REACHED IN BRUSSELS AND ON NEGOTIATING A
SETTLEMENT IN NICOSIA IN ACCORDANCE WITH PRIORITIES
THAT HAD BEEN AGREED IN BRUSSELS. THE TURKS CLAIMED THAT
THE GREEKS HAD BEEN UNCOOPERATIVE AND, IN FACT, UNWILLING
TO NEGOTIATE IN NICOSIA; THEREFORE, THE TURKS HAD DECIDED
TO ACT UNILATERALLY AND THE GOT SUPPORTED THE POSITIONS TAKEN
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AND STATEMENTS MADE BY DENKTASH.

3. IN OTHER WORDS, BITSIOS SAID, THE TURKS GAVE WALDHEIM THEIR "USUAL LINE" IN ANKARA. BITSIOS THEN WENT ON TO RECOUNT TO ME THAT HE HAD IN FACT NOT GONE BACK ON ANY OF THE BRUSSELS' UNDERSTANDINGS AND THAT THE GREEKS HAD INDEED BEEN FULLY PREPARED AND READY TO NEGOTIATE THROUGHOUT THIS MOST RECENT PERIOD. IN FACT, BECAUSE OF TURKISH INTRANSIGENCE THE GREEK SIDE HAD DECIDED TO MAKE THE OVERALL PROPOSALS WHICH CLERIDES MADE FEBRUARY 10 IN AN EFFORT TO GIVE A NEW AND MAJOR IMPULSE TO THE NEGOTIATIONS. AT THE SAME TIME, THE GOG HAD SEPARATELY MADE OVERTURES TO THE GOT ABOUT SETTLING THEIR DISAGREEMENTS IN THE AEGEAN.

4. BITSIOS SAID THAT PRIME MINISTER CARAMANLIS HAD BEEN QUITE FRANK WITH WALDHEIM. CARAMANLIS HAD SAID THAT AS FAR AS PROCEDURE WAS CONCERNED, A WAY HAD TO BE FOUND "TO RESUME NEGOTIATIONS." CARAMANLIS DID NOT BELIEVE THAT CLERIDES AND DENKTASH COULD SIMPLY SIT DOWN AGAIN IN NICOSIA AND RESUME THEIR TALKS AS THOUGH NOTHING HAD HAPPENED. THE FACT WAS THAT NO GREEK COULD SIT DOWN AGAIN WITH DENKTASH ABSENT SOME NEW DEVELOPMENT OR ARRANGEMENT THAT WOULD PROVIDE FOR THE NECESSARY IMPROVEMENT IN THE ATMOSPHERE AND CONDITIONS FOR SUCH TALKS. AS TO SUBSTANCE, CARAMANLIS SAID THAT THE CHALLENGE STILL REMAINED TO IDENTIFY THE MAIN ELEMENTS THAT WOULD COMPRISE ANY SETTLEMENT ON CYPRUS. CARAMANLIS CONFIDED TO WALDHEIM THAT HE COULD NOT CONTROL THE GREEK SIDE INDEFINITELY AND, INDEED, THAT HE HAD OTHER DOMESTIC PROBLEMS IN GREECE THAT COULD COMBINE, IN TIME, WITH LACK OF A CYPRUS SETTLEMENT TO PRODUCE VERY SERIOUS DISTURBANCES IN THE COUNTRY, POSSIBLY EVEN THREATENING THE SURVIVAL AND CONTINUANCE OF THE CARAMANLIS GOVERNMENT. CARAMANLIS TOLD WALDHEIM, BITSIOS SAID, THAT THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL--AND ESPECIALLY THE FIVE PERMANENT MEMBERS, HAVE A MAJOR RESPONSIBILITY TO TRY AND BRING ABOUT A REASONABLE AND NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT ON CYPRUS AND THAT IS WHY THE GREEK SIDE DECIDED ONCE AGAIN TO TAKE THE PROBLEM TO THE SC.

5. WHAT, I ASKED, DID BITSIOS THINK MIGHT COME OUT OF THE SC MEETING? BITSIOS SAID HE DIDN'T KNOW BUT HE WAS VERY CONFIDENTIAL

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HOPEFUL THAT SOMETHING CONCRETE COULD BE DONE. HE ASKED THAT I RELAY TO THE SECRETARY HIS HOPE THAT THE SECRETARY WOULD TAKE THE SC MEETING THIS WEEK MOST SERIOUSLY AND TAKE A PERSONAL INTEREST IN IT, OFFERING IDEAS AND SUGGESTIONS FOR POSSIBLE FORWARD MOVEMENT. BITSIOS SAID THE THOUGHT THE SITUATION NOW VERY MUCH REQUIRED "THIRD PARTY" IDEAS AND HELP.

6. I ASKED BITSIOS IF HE HAD ANY INFORMATION ABOUT WHAT THE SOVIETS MIGHT PROPOSE. HE SAID THAT THEY WERE GOING TO MAKE THEIR PROPOSAL ONCE AGAIN FOR AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE; HOWEVER, ACCORDING TO HIS INFORMATION, THIS PROPOSAL WOULD GO NOWHERE.

7. I TOLD BITSIOS I HAD SEEN SOME INDICATIONS THAT THOUGHT WAS BEING GIVEN TO A POSSIBLE SPECIAL MISSION OF THE UN TO CYPRUS, OR TO ESTABLISHING SOME KIND OF TIMING FOR THE NEGOTIATIONS, INCLUDING THE SETTING OF A DEADLINE. BITSIOS SAID THE GREEK GOVERNMENT HAD NO STRONG VIEWS ON THESE QUESTIONS. HE AID THAT THE POSSIBILITY OF A SPECIAL MISSION OR A DEADLINE FOR NEGOTIATIONS WAS NOT EXCLUDED, BUT HE AGREED THAT THESE WERE NOT VERY PROMISING AND PERHAPS WOULD HARM RATHER THAN HELP THE SITUATION.

8. WHAT, THEN, I ASKED DID THE GREEK SIDE HAVE TO SUGGEST THAT WAS NEW? HE SAID THAT HE AND CARAMANLIS HAD DISCUSSED WITH WALDHEIM THE POSSIBILITY OF MOVING THE CLERIDES-DENKTASH NEGOTIATIONS TO NEW YORK, WITH WALDHEIM PERSONALLY PARTICIPATING IN AND OVERSEEING THEM.

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MRN: 1975ATHENS001404 SEGMENT NUMBER: 000002 ERROR READING TEXT INDEX
FILE; TELEGRAM TEXT FOR THIS SEGMENT IS UNAVAILABLE

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, NEGOTIATIONS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, SELFGOVERNMENT
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 FEB 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975ATHENS01404
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: CORE1
Film Number: D750061-0061
From: ATHENS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750229/aaaaazso.tel
Line Count: 140
Locator: TEXT ON MICROFILM, ADS TEXT UNRETRIEVABLE
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 75 USUN 0530, 75 ATHENS 1347
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags: ANOMALY
Review Date: 16 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16 APR 2003 by KelleyW0>; APPROVED <17 APR 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CYPRUS IN UNSC: DISCUSSION WITH BITSIOS
TAGS: PFOR, OVIP, CY, UN, UNSC, (WALDHEIM, KURT), (BITSIOS, DIMITRIOS)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006